



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT APPROVES ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR TOWN OF SOUTHWICK SEWER PROJECT**

**SOUTHWICK, MA** – The residents of the Town of Southwick are one step closer to the completion of their new sewer system today as it was announced that another low-interest loan and grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development has been approved. On behalf of President George W. Bush and Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, David Tuttle, State Director of Rural Development, was pleased to announce the approval of a \$1,400,000 low-interest loan and a \$900,000 grant. The Southwick sewer project has benefited from three prior phases of funding through USDA Rural Development which total \$7,696,940 in assistance since 1997.

Congressman John Olver said of the project, "I am delighted that Southwick is one step closer to completing their new sewer system. State Director Tuttle and his staff are to be commended for helping this project continue apace."

"Our main mission at Rural Development is to help improve the quality of life for the residents of rural America. Without a doubt, this sewer system will help us achieve this goal for the residents of Southwick. When we signed on to help the Town of Southwick in their effort to construct a new sewer system, we assured the town that we would continue to support the project until it was completed" said State Director of USDA Rural Development, David Tuttle. "We are pleased to be able to assist Southwick with this project. A modern, reliable sewage collection system will benefit a great number of residents and businesses in town."

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The design and construction of the new sewer project is intended to replace the current aging, failing septic systems within the center of town and the Congamond Lake area. The new sewer system has been designed to include 80,000 linear feet of sewer, six pumping stations, and 250 individual grinder pumps with the flow going to the Town of Westfield's sewage treatment plant.

"Cooperation between all levels of government was the key to this project. We are all thankful for the willingness of Rural Development Director Dave Tuttle to work with the Town of Southwick and find a way to complete this sewer project in a timely manner," said State Representative Dan Keenan.

Mr. Fred Arnold, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen in Southwick said, "The townspeople are thankful for the efforts of the federal and state governments in supporting this most worthwhile project."

State Senator Michael R. Knapik commented that, "Dave Tuttle and his staff are to be commended for their hard work on behalf of this important Southwick project. Southwick is a growing, vibrant community and the USDA's Rural Development programs have certainly played an integral role in addressing the changes this community is experiencing."

USDA Rural Development's Water and Waste Programs provide technical and financial assistance to small communities with a population of 10,000 or less. The objective of the Water and Waste Program is to develop public water and waste water systems in order to reduce or eliminate pollution of water resources and for the improvement and planning of solid waste facilities.

The presentation of USDA Rural Development funds to the town of Southwick was held on Friday, February 15, 2002 at 11 am at the Point Grove Road Boat Ramp and gazebo in Southwick.

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